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Geographic Research Area Contribution to

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS
BRIDGING PAPER
1962

Introduction

Our geographic research effort is world-wide in scope. During 1962 there was a mounting demand for geographic intelligence on troubled areas of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. We continued to provide basic studies on the physical and cultural factors influencing key political, military, and economic developments in foreign areas. Additionally, we greatly increased the amount of geographic research effort devoted to support of operations planning.

Geographic Intelligence

We maintain within our Office of Research and Reports a group of competent geographic analysts who provide research and technical support on the characteristics of foreign areas to the various finished-intelligence and operations-planning activities of the Agency and the Intelligence Community.

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Geographic intelligence research has also contributed to analyses of foreign political and military crises affecting security interests of the United States. For example, during the past year briefing studies were prepared on Berlin, the India-China border area, Malaysia, China's offshore islands, Albania, and the Jordan River water question. Other more detailed studies have contributed to estimates of communist activities in nuclear energy, guided missiles, and biological warfare, and to identification of similar Chinese Communist activities. We continue to devote increased attention to the geography of non-Bloc areas of the world, with particular emphasis on ethnic groups, local economies, and territorial conflicts that are involved in current and potential future crises. For example, several studies were focused on the paramilitary potential of ethnic minorities in the Near East and South Asia .

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Since the inception of the National Intelligence Surveys Program, the geographic group has provided substantial and continuing intelligence and cartographic support to this activity. Research of a similarly basic nature has been directed at problems in the fields of Sino-Soviet town plans, clandestine nuclear testing and emerging socio-political groups in the new countries of Africa. We attempt to give the widest possible dissemination to the results of this research, and have, in the past, distributed to the academic community as well as to other government agencies our very detailed administrative atlases of Communist China and the USSR. Most recently, we have endeavored to keep geodesists in our national scientific community abreast of Soviet technical developments through a systematic selection of key scientific and technical articles for translation. In support of the general need for exchange of data and ideas on areas of developing significance, our geographers have stimulated very effective intelligence discussion groups on Africa (interagency), Southeast Asia, and the Soviet Arctic.

During the past year, a number of geographic intelligence reports and briefings were prepared on USSR operations in Antarctica for use in assessing the significance of Soviet achievements and long-range intentions as they affect United States interests. In this work we are closely supporting the Department of State through its interagency group on Antarctic policy planning as well as the Commander, US Navy Support Forces for Antarctica. Currently, this

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Office is also providing the Department of State and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency with intelligence assistance in planning for the implementation of the inspection provisions of the Antarctic Treaty.

We continue our research on Soviet geodetic activities within the USSR, abroad (in their foreign aid programs), and in outer space. Through this research the Intelligence Community is better able to evaluate Soviet progress in geodetic positioning for long-range targeting purposes. This past year we undertook a field research project involving simulation of a missile-site positioning attempt by an enemy agent. The results of the project will, when fully evaluated, provide a firmer foundation for estimating Soviet capability to position US missile sites accurately. The insight gained from this study promises to be additionally useful in devising means to reduce and frustrate Soviet attempts to improve targeting accuracy.

Effective representation of intelligence information requires extensive use of current up-to-date maps and charts. The Cartography unit in the Office plans and constructs maps and graphics for inclusion in intelligence reports, including National Intelligence Estimates, National Intelligence Surveys, and for use in planning and carrying out Agency operations.

An extensive map library and map reference facility is also maintained for use by all authorized government officials. Its specialized collection of foreign maps is kept current through a

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coordinated and highly effective interagency map procurement program that reflects the requirements of government agencies having need for foreign maps and minimizes the possibility of duplicative collection efforts. Particular emphasis is being given to guidance for collection of topographic maps of the Rloc because of their importance in establishing more accurate locational data for missile guidance and targeting.

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